package has been sent, I have already answered that the matter is being pursued with the Postal authorities, and the anxiety that the hon. Member has expressed, we shall take care to see that this system can improve.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to know as to what are the various uses of monitoring of programmes of other countries into India. Is it a fact that in the past that All India Radio has failed to monitor stantaneously the big events taking place in other countries. So, what precautions have been taken against such vital failures in the monitoring system?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: The purpose of monitoring is simply to know what is being said so that if any adverse propaganda is going on and if our point of view is to be projected, we project it through our own media, through our External Services and other ways and so and through our Missions. The whole idea is to know and then to project our view through legitimate means.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the television network and this monitoring system is concerned, there is no doubt that this network has gone to the remote areas of the country. But as far as the monitoring system of T.V. is concerned, I want to know whether the Ministry is aware of the number of films that are shown on the T.V. in a week. I think more than five films are shown. And also whether the Ministry is aware of the type of films that are shown, because instead of going to cinema houses, the children watch films on T.V., which is roughly one film a day, and this will have a very bad effect. Is there any guideline to this monitoring cell about showing of the films on the T.V.? If not, how this monitoring is being done?

Another point is, the T.V. network has gone to remote areas but in some of the Scheduled Tribes areas and tribal areas, there is no T.V. network. What action is going to be taken by the Government to extend the T.V. setwork to these remote areas?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about other countries.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I asked about the monitoring system for the T.V.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question relates to monitoring of broadcasts of other countries.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: This issue of so-called cultural invasion has been discussed is various forums and in this august House also several times. Sir, the T.V. and radio programmes from across the border have had their own impact, particularly in the border areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what has been the outcome of the monitoring system and how is this propaganda combated and whether there is any special programme of assistance in the border areas to augment the strength of broadcasting and telecasting.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: We are taking steps. We have improved to an extent, I would say, our own network of radio and T.V. in the border areas; we have a plan and we are further supplementing it and augmenting it. The best way to project our viewpoint and to counter any adverse propaganda which may some time come, is to augment our own system of broadcasting, which we are doing, and we are giving priority to augment the stations in border areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

326. [The] questioners (Shri Ram Jethmalani and Sardar Jagjit Singh Anrara) were absent. For answer vide Cols. 35-36 infra.

Import of films/serials for National Net Work

*327. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan is importing some foreign films/serials for the national net work;

(b) if so, what are the names of such foreign films/serials imported by Doordarshan during 1988 with the price of each of these films/serials;

(c) what was the total revenue earned by Doordarshan on each of the above films/serials during 1988-89;

(d) what are the names of foreign films/serials and other prorgammes which are likely to be telecast on Doordarshan during the next one year; and

(e) what is the policy of Doordarshan for selecting the sponsors for the foreign programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

The reply to the questions are given *below ad-seriatim*:

(a) to (c) Doordarshan imports foreign films/serials. The names of such programmes imported during 1988, their prices and the revenue earend from their telecast during 1988 are asunder:

Statement

Sl. No.	Title of the Programme	Price in foreign currency	Revenue earned from telecast during 1988
1	The Old Fox	D.M. 16,744	Nil
2	He Man & The Masters	US$ 13,650	Rs. 50·40 lakhs
3	Mickey & Donald	US$ 14,300	Rs. 11·00 lakhs
4	Pop Music	US$ 3,842	Nil
5	Return of Sherlock Holmes	US$ 7,000	Not telecast in 1988
6	Anastasia, Huckleberry Finn, Dr. Fischer & Oscar Wilde	US$ 12,200	Not telecast in 1988
7	Shazam	US$ 4,200	Nil
8	(a) Ecology Workshop	D.M. 30,856·60	(a) Not telecast in '88
	(b) History of Clothing		(b) Nil
	(c) Effi Briest		(c) Not telecast in '88
	(d) 1000 Eyes of Dr. Mabuse		(d) Not telecst in '88
	(e) Men & Machines		(e) Not telecast in '88
	(f) James Last in London		(f) Not telecast in '88
	(g) History of Medicine		(g) Not telecast in '88
	(h) Baron Frienreich		(h) Not telecast in '88
9	Entertainers on Tour, Varietie, Toy Box, Rivers About Man, World of Plants, Transtel Gala, Mousespots & Its Party Time	D.M. 43,148·00	Not telecast in '88

(d) Doordarshan draws up a quarterly schedule for telecast of programmes. The following foreign programmes are proposed to be telecast during the coming three months:

1. Bladmoner, Sneeze Wort, Dodder and Cloudberry;
2. Cutting Edge;
3. Yesterday Dreams;
4. Treasure Island;
5. Lost Empire;
6. Men and Machine;
7. Whisper of Glocken;

(e) The details of the imported programmes are sent to all the advertising agencies and allotment of programmes is done on the basis of contracts received from them.

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Doordarshan is spending huge foreign exchange in getting serial films from abroad and then these are telecast on national network under the sponorsed category against Indian rupee. I understand that a large number of individuals and compaines are ready to offer to Doordarshan these foreign films and other programme, against Indian rupee. I would like to know the policy with regard to acceptance of foreign films and other foreign programmes from Indian compaines and individuals so as to save foreign exchange.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai) in the Chair.]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Foreign programmes are selected by a committee of official and non-officials. It is up to the committee to select the best possible programmes and decide whether they should be imported or whether they should be purchased from already available source...

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: I asked about the policy, and he is replying to other things.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: There is nothing which stops the committee from purchasing from within India if they so desire, on the basis of the quality of the films as selected.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): If you permit me to clarify a bit for the satisfaction of the hon. Member, Sir, our policy is to get T.V. programmes, import T.V. programmes on education, science, children and entertainment etc., from reputable foreign T.V. companies, agencies, such as BBC, Greneda T.V., Transtel, Motion Pictures Exporters Association America, Sovietexpo, etc., for telecast on Doordarshan. All international programmes, as my colleague has said, are selected by a committee. Then we have a limitation. The limitation is in regard to foreign exchange. There is no unlimited foreign exchange and we take only a limited number of foreign programmes. We do not want our television to be dominated by foreign programmes. Only six per cent of the total programmes consists of foreign programmes. Not beyond that. This is the policy.

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Sir, my question has not been answered. I asked a specific question.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You put the question in a different manner.

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: My specific question is, when individuals in the country are ready to offer Doordarshan the same films in Indian rupees, why are they not giving them priority? This was my first question. My second supplementary is, Doordarshan is mainly concentrating on processing foreign programmes ignoring programmes on our national leaders and freedom fighters. In this connection I would like to point out that a large number of Members of Parliament including the Chairperson of the Nehru Centenary Committee have written to the Government for approval of a thirteen-part serial on the early lives of our great national leaders, titled 'Jhab vhe nanne munne the',

submitted by one M/s. Event Ads of Bombay. Doordarshan has neither cleared the project under the sponsored category nor under the category of commercial programmes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons for ignoring such important serials and not telecasting them on the national network. Will the hon. Minister assure us that this serial based on the childhood of our great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Gokhale, Pandit Nehru and others will be telecast shortly?

SHRI H. K. L .BHAGAT: The hon. Member has asked about the approval to be given to a particular proposal given by a particular company. But I would like to say here that we are projecting such programmes. We are mounting continuously a number of programmes concerning our national movement, the freedom struggle and the lives of national leaders. But in regard to this particular case, I would not be able to answer it offhand as to what proposal was made and what is the reaction.

So far as the other question is concerned he has asked why we are not giving priority to the same programmes given by individuals in this country on payment of Indian rupees—it depends on who has given the proposal and we have also limitations in regard to category of programmes etc. This will again depend on the situation, on a case-to-case basis. In a general way, I can say that if some proposal is there, we can examine it.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Sir, from the statement annexed to the reply we see that certain films were imported but not telecast. The amount involved is 24,000 $ and 74,000 D.M. This much money has been spent and these programmes have been purchased. I would like to know since how long they have been lying.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, in the statement, under item 8, it has been mentioned that these programmes were purchased but these have not been telecast. This only means that they have not been telecast in 1988. The hon. Member has asked in his question whether they have been telecast in 1988. But these have been telecast earlier or later and if they have not been telecast, they have not been telecast, they have already been scheduled to be telecast.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: I wanted to know when they have been purchased.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I would not be able to say exactly when these were purchased. But the time-lag is only a few months from purchase to telecast.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: I would like to know why they have been purchasing commercial films from the Western countries alone. Will the Government consider importing and exhibiting films from Third World countries to promote better relations with them?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, this Committee has very liberal and wide terms of reference. They select the very best programmes from known, authentic, magazines published abroad as well as reviews by film critics within India as well as internationally. Third World films are also being... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: May I inform the hon. Member that we do import programmes from Soviet and other countries also? This is not so to say that these programmes are taken only from the Western countries, they are taken from other countries also. In another form we have cultural exchange agreements with a number of countries, about 54 countries.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Question Hour is over.